

Lesson 4 concluded the first part of our studies in David's life. We examined how God worked in David and prepared him during his youth. We also studied the friendship between David and Jonathan. From their example, we gleaned five important truths about quality friendships: A friend intercedes to the Lord in prayer for their friend; friends protect one another from the enemy's attacks in various areas of their lives; a friend sacrifices, denying his or herself; a friend loves no matter what happens; and a friend releases that friendship when it is clear the time has come.

David sadly parted from Jonathan after it was apparent that Saul sought nothing other than David's death. We briefly summarized the ten-year time frame that David suffered. We also read quotes from some of the psalms that David wrote during that time, summarizing what he had learned from life on the run and in utter dependence on God. Ultimately, Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle, as prophesied. This is where 2 Samuel begins, as we see how God establishes David as king of Judah, and will ultimately become king over all of Israel. David truly humbled himself. Warren Wiersbe points out that the book of 2 Samuel is really a living exposition of the truths of Proverbs 14:34 and 28:13.<sup>1</sup>

Let's turn to the second part of this year's studies in the life of King David, where we'll learn how to become men after God's own heart.

## DAY 1

### Grievous News 2 SAMUEL 1:1-16

*Please Read 2 Samuel 1:1-16 and answer the following questions*

[ 1 ] While the Philistines attacked Israel, David and his men attacked the Amalekites for their atrocious actions toward them and Israel in general (see 1 Samuel 30). This also fulfilled the task God asked of Saul, but which he compromisingly avoided (1 Samuel 15), which led to him being rejected as king over Israel. After two days back at Ziklag, a pathetic looking man came limping up toward David and prostrated himself.

Who was this man; what was the grievous news he brought (vv. 3-4, 8)?

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[ 2 ] The Amalekite related that he was present on the hill where Saul staggered, and that Saul asked him to kill him, putting him out of his misery. This man then produced Saul's crown and signet bracelet. Thus it was true that he did find Saul on the hill, and probably robbed his corpse rather than directly killing him, since 1 Samuel 31 clearly says that Saul killed himself.

Expecting a positive response and reward from David, this man willingly lied. What was the reaction of David and his men to this situation (vv. 11-12)?

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*Note:* How ironic is it that Saul's failure to destroy the Amalekites in 1 Samuel 15 led to an Amalekite taking advantage of him in his death!<sup>2</sup>

[ 3 ] What was the unexpected reward for this Amalekite (vv. 14–16)?

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### ***EXPANDED QUESTIONS***

[ 1 ] One of the most amazing things in this week's study is the compassion and forgiveness David had toward Saul, his mad pursuer of the last ten years. Most people would be partying and singing choruses of victory in reaction to the death of such a sinful madman. However, David mourned, wept, and fasted for Jonathan.

David is quite an example of Christ in His forgiveness toward us, and His mourning for the lost. How do Ezekiel 33:11; and 2 Peter 3:9 describe the awesome love and forgiveness God has extended to us as sinful people?

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[ 2 ] According to Matthew 6:14–15, what is the believer's reaction to forgiveness supposed to be? Think of how David exhibited forgiveness toward Saul.

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**Daily Life Point:** David exhibited a tremendous respect for God's anointing, submitting to it and taking strong actions to defend it. Are you willing to stand up for and defend the anointing of God in your life against the enemy of your soul, who daily seeks ways to weaken and undermine that? Will you be another Saul, letting the "Amalekites" of your life go unchecked, only to take you down in the end?

Read the following passage, and then list some areas of your life that you need to attend to in view of this:

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)

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**MEMORY PASSAGE**

This week we will memorize a passage outside of our text, but is very fitting for our study. Fill in the missing words in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times throughout the week.

**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

**(1 Peter 5:6–7 NKJV)**

**DAY 2**

Grievous Reaction  
**2 SAMUEL 1:17–27**

Please read 2 Samuel 1:17–27 and answer the following questions.

[ 1 ] David then lamented Saul and Jonathan in song (“composed a funeral song” NLT). He entitled it “The Song of the Bow.” The word *bow* is fitting, as it symbolized his beloved friend Jonathan, whose very bow was not just an instrument of war, but it was with his bow Jonathan helped David to escape.<sup>3</sup> “The Book of Jasher” literally means “The Book of the Righteous.” Joshua 10:13 mentions it; it is was probably a historical record of heroic poetry or songs, now lost.<sup>4</sup> What was the extent of this loss to the nation of Israel (vv. 19–20, 25, 27)?

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Note: There was an alleged “Book of Jasher” published in 1751, supposedly translated from some Hebrew manuscripts. This has been clearly shown to be a forgery; this record is sadly lost and would have been fascinating reading.<sup>5</sup>

[ 2 ] In what generous ways does David describe the life and value of his pursuer, Saul (vv. 21–24)?

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[ 3 ] In what ways did David especially mourn the loss of his best friend Jonathan (vv. 25–26)?

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### **EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] What a tremendous example David set for us in his honoring of Saul! David saw the best side of Saul despite the horrible way he had been treated by him. The loss of Saul was described as the loss of the beauty of Israel, or loss of their prominence, splendor, and their glory being taken away.<sup>6</sup> The mighty had indeed fallen, in more ways than one, yet David exhibited such love for Saul. No wonder he is called a man after God's own heart!

How does this fulfill what John echoed in 1 John 4:20–21?

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[ 2 ] David added his personal mourning for his friend Jonathan. He was distressed, which comes from a Hebrew word meaning to be cramped, be in affliction, distressed, and oppressed.<sup>7</sup> The friendship love that David and Jonathan experienced was “wonderful,” implying a one of a kind feeling, something separate and distinguished from the love that he had experienced with his various wives to that point.<sup>8</sup>

Sadly, some still try to read homosexuality into this, but in their culture, a wife was viewed as a partner in procreation and parenthood, not necessarily a “best friend” or peer, and the loss of the close friendship that David had experienced with Jonathan “left a gaping hole in David’s soul.”<sup>9</sup>

What are some things that Paul wrote that can bring comfort to all of those who have lost a special friend like David did?

1 Corinthians 2:9; 15:21–22, 57–58

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1 Thessalonians 4:13–14

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**Daily Life Point:** Thus ended a quality friendship. As Gary Inrig pointed out, there was no regret in this parting, because they had taken the time to communicate their feelings of commitment and loyalty to each other. The friendship that Jonathan showed to David was one of the greatest things in his life, propelling him toward becoming a man after God's own heart.<sup>10</sup> Have you done the same toward those important to you, or will you wait until it is too late, and feel regret for not being that type of friend? Is there a letter you need to write, or phone call to make? Please don't wait until it is too late. Don't let your friend's eulogy be the time that you speak well of him.

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**MEMORY PASSAGE**

Fill in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times.

Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that  
He may \_\_\_\_\_ you in due time, \_\_\_\_\_ all your care  
upon Him, for He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6–7 NKJV)

**DAY 3**

David King in Judah  
**2 SAMUEL 2:1-11**

Please Read 2 Samuel 2:1–11 and answer the following questions

[ 1 ] What steps did David take after these things (vv. 1–3)?

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Note: There were probably at least 1,000 people with David at this time.<sup>11</sup>

[ 2 ] What happened once David was established in Hebron, and how did he seek to reach out to others in this (vv.4–7)?

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Note: David was anointed King of Judah in approximately 1011 B.C.<sup>12</sup>

[ 3 ] The news that David had been anointed king didn't sit well with Abner, the commander of Saul's forces. What did he do in view of this? What else does the passage relate (vv. 8–11)?

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Note: Ishbosheth had an alternate name as well, which was Esh Baal, but Ishbosheth meant "Man of Shame."<sup>13</sup> He was more of a puppet ruler with Abner really holding the strings of power.<sup>14</sup>

**EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] We must follow David’s example here of not pushing out in presumption, but commit our futures into the hands of the Lord through prayer, confirming His leading in His perfect timing. We need to keep doing what is right regardless of how others react, and press on by faith and confidence in God’s will. What do the following passages remind us about praying through each step of our lives, and not just jumping out in presumption?

Proverbs 3:5–6

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John 16:24

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James 4:13–16

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1 John 5:14–15

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**Daily Life Point:** Has there been a time where you have moved in presumption, rather than taking time to seek God’s wisdom and guidance in a decision? What resulted from this bad decision, and what can you do differently in the future to assure this doesn’t happen again?

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Maybe there has been a negative reaction to your stepping out in faith, and opposition arose, like it did here for David. What truths can you cling to when this happens? How can you continue on, despite how others have treated you? Please record some thoughts here to share and discuss with your group.

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**MEMORY PASSAGE**

Fill in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times.

Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves under the mighty \_\_\_\_\_ of  
God, that He may \_\_\_\_\_ you in due time, \_\_\_\_\_ all your  
care upon Him, for He \_\_\_\_\_ for you. (1 Peter 5:6–7 NKJV)

**DAY 4**

The Field of Sharp Swords  
**2 SAMUEL 2:12–23**

Please Read 2 Samuel 2:12–23 and answer the following questions

[ 1 ] It didn't take long for the rebellion that Abner sparked to turn to civil war. Abner and his forces met up with Joab and David's forces. They then faced off at the pool of Gibeon. Much like the challenge of Goliath, what did Abner propose they do instead of wage a full-scale battle? What was the unintended result of this (vv. 14–17)?

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*Note:* The Hebrew wording here is *Helkath Hazzurim*, which means "the field of sharp swords."<sup>15</sup> This reminds us of how in their culture, locations were often renamed or named because of the significant events that happened there.

[ 2 ] What was the next thing that happened when Abner realized that his forces were being defeated soundly (vv. 18–21)?

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*Note:* It is important to realize that Zeruah was David's sister, so these three men, who were David's nephews, were promoted to important places in his army. Amasa, another of David's nephews, will briefly serve as captain instead of Joab under Absalom.<sup>16</sup>

[ 3 ] What was the sad result for the overly ambitious Asahel, and what impact did this have on David's army (vv. 22–23)?

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## **EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] Abner is an exact opposite of David, rushing into actions that he should have never undertaken, rather than taking it all to the Lord and submitting to His perfect plan. The result was the Field of Sharp Swords and a loss of many lives in civil war. (This is much like what we saw in our own nation's history.) It also resulted in tragic events for David's own family. The death of Asahel would be the thing that turns Joab into the person we will see him become in future studies, un pitying and brutal.<sup>17</sup> As Warren Wiersbe well said, "To put human leaders ahead of God's anointed king is to create division and weakness in the ranks of the Lord's followers and invite multiplied problems for the Lord's people."<sup>18</sup> Here it certainly led to many negative results. In addition to bathing our decisions and actions in prayer, what are three other things that will help us to not walk in presumption like Abner did?

1 Peter 3:15a

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Psalm 119:1–4

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Proverbs 15:22; 1 Corinthians 2:16

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**Bonus Question** (Optional): J. Oswald Sanders points out that we, as Christians, must seek to make the most of our lives, but to desire a place of spiritual leadership must be solely out of an unselfish motive, not canvassing for our own promotion!<sup>19</sup> The famous 19th century preacher, Charles Bridges, well said of seeking to enter any sort of Christian ministry:

There is something so fearfully responsible in entering upon this work with incompetent abilities, that the man can scarcely have felt any serious concern for his own soul, for the immortal interests of his fellow-sinners, or for the welfare of the Church of God, whose mind has not been more or less exercised upon the ground of personal unfitness . . . evidenced by a supply of competent qualifications for its discharge.<sup>20</sup>

In other words, God's calling is His enabling of one's ability to serve, but we better be sure He has really called the person or ourselves to that place!

Read the following passages, and record what they teach about the importance of not rushing into choosing, or becoming, a spiritual leader:

1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9

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James 3:1–2

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**Daily Life Point:** There is another Field of Sharp Swords that many people have fallen victim to, not a physical battle, but in the use of the dagger of our tongues! Paul warns about avoiding the destructive power of our tongues in Ephesians 4:29–31:

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

James points out that the tongue, when out of control, can destroy just as much as any weapon (James 3:3–12). Perhaps this is why David prayed to have the Lord set a guard over his mouth. He did it to keep him from hurting others and to let all he said be pleasing in God's sight (Psalm 19:14; 141:3).

Have you damaged or been damaged in this Field of Sharp Swords we call speech? what steps do you personally need to take in preventing your speech from destroying or damaging others? How can you recover and get back on the right track?

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***MEMORY PASSAGE***

Fill in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times.

Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves under the mighty \_\_\_\_\_ of

God, that He may \_\_\_\_\_ you in \_\_\_\_\_ time, \_\_\_\_\_

all your \_\_\_\_\_ upon Him, for He \_\_\_\_\_ for you.

(1 Peter 5:6–7 NKJV)

**DAY 5**

End of the Pursuit  
**2 SAMUEL 2:24-28**

Please Read 2 Samuel 2:24-28 and answer the following questions

[ 1 ] The death of Asahel enraged the two remaining brothers, as they pursued Abner all the more zealously. What realization did Abner come to, and how did Joab respond to this (vv. 25-28)?

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[ 2 ] Abner and his forces returned, as did Joab and David's forces. What was the result of this fighting (vv. 30-31)?

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[ 3 ] What did Joab's forces then do (v. 32)?

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**EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] It is interesting that Abner crossed the Jordan and left the land of promise, camping in Mahanaim, which meant "double camp."<sup>21</sup> This was where Jacob wrestled in Genesis 32. Joab and his men returned to David at Hebron, which meant "fellowship."<sup>22</sup> This was home to the three patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the Promised Land. Joab chose the better part! Why is our staying in close fellowship so important to us as Christians?

Proverbs 27:17

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Matthew 18:20

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Romans 15:14

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Hebrews 10:24-25

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[ 2 ] Abner's foolish action was responsible for the deaths of at least 380 men in one day. He sought to become a peacemaker a bit too late, but at least he did for the time being. He was too much like the wicked of Psalm 28:3: "Do not take me away with the wicked and with the workers of iniquity, who speak peace to their neighbors, but evil is in their hearts." How should we seek to be walking in peace, and be a peacemaker (Psalm 34:14; 119:165; Matthew 5:9)?

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How did this week's study speak to you personally about following the guidelines of seeking after God's perfect will by:

Praying through the matter thoroughly:

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Submitting yourself and the decision fully to the Lord:

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Consistently seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit in His Word:

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Seeking godly counsel from godly others:

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[ 3 ] Think about the deep grief and sorrow that David experienced in the loss of Jonathan. Have you experienced such a loss yourself? If so, how did you handle it? How can you prevent the sorrow and regret of never dealing with issues in your friendships that you should have dealt with? Read the following quote, and discuss in your group how this can help us in dealing with the grief of the loss of those close to you.

Concerning this, in his book *The Making of a Man of God*, Alan Redpath said:

A greater than Jonathan is here today, right now, where you are. He is here to plan for you, to care for you. Is your lot hard to take? Is the going rough? Is there a cup of bitterness to drink somewhere? Are your friends of a totally different bend from Jonathan and have they hurt and grieved you? The Bible says that joy comes in the morning, for then we will see the King in His beauty with never a cloud between, and we will serve Him without any weariness of sin, and He shall present us faultless before the presence of God with exceeding joy. His love is so wonderful!<sup>25</sup>

## **MEMORY PASSAGE**

Fill in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times.

**1 Peter 5:6–7 NKJV:**

## **PARTING THOUGHTS**

David was about 30 when he became king over Judah. The rest of 2 Samuel covers the last 40 years of David's life after the death of Saul.<sup>26</sup> When Saul died, David mourned, but he rejoiced in the victory that God brought to him. This song of victory is recorded for us in Psalm 18. It is both a psalm of thanksgiving and a kingship psalm. It doesn't look to David, it looks beyond to the promised Messiah.

While Psalm 18 probably covers the time from of David's victory over his enemies through 2 Samuel 22, it is appropriate to meditate on it at this point.<sup>27</sup> The psalm speaks of the confidence David gained in God as he saw Him perform amazing victories on his behalf. Spurgeon well said:

The happy poet resolves to invoke the Lord in joyful song, believing that in all future conflicts his God would deal well with him as in the past. It is well to pray to God as to one who deserves to be praised, for them we plead in a happy and confident manner...Many are saved mourning and doubting; but David had such faith that he could fight singing, and win the battle with a song still upon his lips.<sup>28</sup>

Let's pause and think about the following selections from this long psalm, and in like manner grow in confidence in God's ability to see us through all the things we will face in our lives.

### Psalm 18

To the Chief Mucician. A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said:

I will love you, O Lord, my strength.  
The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;  
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.  
I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised;  
So shall I be saved from my enemies.  
The pangs of death surrounded me,

And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid.  
The sorrows of Shoel surrounded me;  
The snares of death confronted me.  
In my distress I called upon the Lord,  
And cried out to my God;  
He heard my voice from His temple,  
And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.

He sent from above, He took me;  
He drew me out of many waters.  
He delivered me from my strong enemy,  
From those who hated me,  
For they were too strong for me.  
But the Lord was my support.  
He brought me out into a broad place;  
He delivered me because He delighted in me.

The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness;  
According to the cleanness of my hands  
He has recompensed me.

For I have kept the ways of the Lord,  
And have not wickedly departed from my God.  
For all His judgments were before me,  
And I did not put away His statutes from me.  
I was also blameless before Him,  
And I kept myself from my iniquity.

Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness,  
According to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.  
With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful;  
With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;  
And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.  
For You will save the humble people,  
But will bring down haughty looks.

For You will light my lamp;  
The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.  
For by You I can run against a troop,  
By my God I can leap over a wall.  
As for God, His way is perfect;  
The word of the Lord is proven;  
He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

For who is God, except the Lord?  
And who is a rock, except our God?  
It is God who arms me with strength,  
And makes my way perfect.  
He makes my feet like the feet of deer,  
And sets me on my high places.  
He teaches my hands to make war,  
So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.  
You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;  
Your right hand has held me up,  
Your gentleness has made me great.  
You enlarged my path under me;  
So my feet did not slip.

The Lord lives!  
Blessed be my Rock!  
Let the God of my salvation be exalted.  
It is God who avenges me,  
And subdues the people under me;  
He delivers me from my enemies.  
You also lift me up above those who rise against me;  
You have delivered me from the violent man.  
Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles,  
And sing praises to Your name.  
Great deliverance He gives to His king,  
And shows mercy to His anointed,  
To David and his descendants forevermore.

## NOTES

- 1 Warren W. Wiersbe, *With the Word Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Nelson, 1993), p. 393.
- 2 Robert D. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel in The New American Commentary*, E. Ray Clendon, ed., vol. 7 (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1996), p. 287.
- 3 John MacArthur, ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Word, 1997), p. 427.
- 4 Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, Tenn.: AMG, 1994), p. 809.
- 5 Ronald F. Youngblood, *1, 2 Samuel in The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, F.E. Gaebelein, ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1992), pp. 816–817.
- 6 Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study*, p. 2357.
- 7 James Strong, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1890), p. 101.
- 8 Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study*, pp. 2354–2355.
- 9 Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, p. 293.
- 10 Gary Inrig, *Quality Friendship* (Chicago: Moody, 1981), p. 103.
- 11 Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, p. 297.
- 12 *The New Scofield Study Bible*, (Nashville: Nelson, 1989), p. 369.
- 13 MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 428.
- 14 Youngblood, *1, 2 Samuel*, p. 823.
- 15 *The New Scofield Study Bible*, p. 370.
- 16 *Ibid.*
- 17 Joe O. Lewis, *Layman's Bible Commentary*, vol. 5 (Nashville: Broadman, 1980), p. 80.
- 18 Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Restored* (Colorado Springs: Victor, 2002), p. 19.
- 19 J. Oswald Chambers, *Spiritual Leadership* (Chicago: Moody, 1980), p. 19.
- 20 Charles Bridges, *The Christian Ministry, with an Inquiry into the Causes of its Inefficiency* (Carlisle, Pa: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1991), pp. 24, 25.
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- 23 *Ibid.*
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- 26 Charles R. Swindoll, *David, a Man of Passion and Destiny* (Dallas: Word, 1997), p. 129.
- 27 James M. Boice, *Psalms*, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994), pp. 145–146.
- 28 Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, vol. 1 (Nashville: Nelson, Undated Reprint), p. 237.

